

Rothbury
Rural District Council.

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING, DECEMBER 31st, 1904.

Rothbury:

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ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1904.

ROTHBURY,

January 21st, 1905.

TO THE ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

Allow me to present you with this my Ninth Annual Report to your Council, it being my Twenty-eighth to the Rural Sanitary Authority, and referring to the year ended December 31st, 1904.

The number of Births registered was 111, this being at a rate of 23·10, and about your average for the last ten years of 114, at a rate of 23·7. As the rate for England and Wales (Rural populations) is 26·8, yours is rather low, as is the case now in most rural parishes. The males numbered 66, and the females 45. There were registered during the first quarter 25 births, the second 23, the third 37, and the last 26. There was a marked increase in the rural part of the Rothbury parish, doubtless due to the Waterworks within it, being 11 above the average. Netherwitton was also above the average, while Alwinton, Whittingham, and Elsdon were below.

The number of Deaths was 60, being at a rate of only 12·5, as against the average of 15·0. Of these, however, 4 did not belong to the district, leaving 56 that did, and this furnishes a rate of only 11·66 amongst residents, which is very satisfactory. That for England and Wales is 15·3. Of the residents, 25 were males, and 31 females. They occurred as follows: during January, 4; February, 2; March, 7; April, 8; May, 8; June, 6; July, 7; August, 4; September, 6; October, 1; November, 0; December, 2; and one was registered that occurred during the previous December.

There being 111 births registered, with only 56 deaths, it follows that the difference of 55 persons were naturally added to the population. This is at a rate of 11·41, and is very nearly that for England and Wales of 12·0, and above your average of 9·2.

Of the 111 infants born, it appears that 10 died before attaining the age of one year, hence in infancy, this is at a rate of only 90·9 per 1,000 born (while that for England and Wales is 125·0), being also better than your average of 105·3.

The number of deaths during each of the following age periods were : under one year, 10 ; one and under five, 2 ; five to fifteen, 1 ; fifteen to twenty-five, 5 ; twenty-five and under sixty-five, 14 ; sixty-five and upwards, 24, which is nearly one half of the total deaths. Of these latter, nine were over 80 years of age (two being 89 and one 88) ; nine others were over 70, and six others over 65 years of age.

Under the zymotic (the seven chief epidemic) class of diseases, there were only three deaths registered. This at a low rate of only 0·62 ; that for England and Wales being 1·28. Two were due to *Measles*, and one to *Diarrhœa*.

Other causes of death were as follows : *Influenza*, 2 ; *Phthisis* (*Consumption*), 0, being at a rate for the last eighteen years of only 1·23 ; other *Tubercular diseases*, 1 ; *Cancer*, 3 ; *Bronchitis*, 3 ; *Pneumonia*, 1 ; making 4 for diseases of the chest, other than *Phthisis*, which is at a rate of 0·83, as against the average of 2·0 ; *Premature Birth* caused 2 deaths ; *Heart Diseases*, the large number of 12, as against the average of 10 ; *Influenza* upon the aged and infirm accounts largely for this increase ; *Accident* caused 1 ; *Suicide*, 2 ; *Apoplexy*, 3 ; *Debility* from birth, 3 ; *Senile Decay*, 9 ; and all other causes, 11.

The following table shows the number of deaths in the different Ecclesiastical Parishes (or parts of them) contained in the Union, together with the rate per 1,000 calculated upon its population.

	Deaths.	Rate.		Deaths.	Rate.
Rothbury (Rural part of Parish)...	...	19—13·5	Alnham and Brinkburn ...	2—5·5	
Whittingham	10—13·0	Cambo and Elsdon ...	5—8·7	
Alwinton	8—9·3	Longhorsley and Nether-		
Longframlington	9—19·1	witton	3—8·1

The rate for the entire Union being 11·66. Longframlington comes out leading with the heaviest death rate of 19·1 ; Rothbury, 13·5 ; Whittingham, 13·0 ; these being all above the average. Alwinton and Brinkburn being the least, or, most healthy.

Accident caused the death of a child at Longframlington, it being run over by a furniture van whilst playing upon it unseen. An inquest was held.

Suicide caused two deaths, both adult males ; one cut his throat, the other shot himself. Inquests were held.

Of the four *Strangers*, one accidentally fell over a narrow bridge at the Waterworks. Another died of natural causes at the same place. A child strayed into the *Cragside* lakes and was drowned. The Coroner held enquiries as to these. The fourth died of *Pneumonia*, at *Ritton White House*.

Thus the Coroner held investigations into the causes of six of the deaths.

There were no proceedings taken before the magistrates.

The overcrowding at the Waterworks has ceased to exist.

There were notified only 15 cases of Infectious disease, as against 31 of last year. These consisted of : *Diphtheria*, 4 ; *Erysipelas*, 4 ; *Scarlet Fever*, 3 ; *Enteric Fever*, 4. None, fortunately, proved fatal. Two occurred in Rothbury Rural Parish, 5 in Whittingham, 3 in Longframlington, 3 in Alwinton, and 2 in Longhorsley.

Two *Small Pox* patients were inmates of the hospital at the beginning of the year who belonged to your district. The last one left on February 20th, and the hospital was closed and disinfected on 23rd. No new cases have occurred during the year.

Diphtheria was notified from three centres, there being 4 patients in all, who recovered. The first occurred in a male, aged 25 years, at THROPTON. He had had *Mumps*, being confined to the house ; at this time, a blocked-up drain beside the same was opened out, and is believed to have caused his fresh illness of the above nature. The drain and sink were put into a sanitary condition, disinfectants used and instructions given and carried out, isolation and all care, and it did not spread. It also broke out at WINGATES, on April 11th, in a girl, aged 9, who took ill at school, and a girl, who was beside when ill, aged 7, took it on April 13th, doubtless contracted from this former. The school privy and ash midden were cleaned and disinfected, as also one too full at the house. Isolation, disinfection, and all care were used, and it did not spread. Hawkers were in the house of the first attacked, and may have brought it, goods being bought from them. The water supply is not in a safe condition, as has been previously pointed out. Both cases were mild. It also broke out at WHITTINGHAM LANE. It seems to have been brought there from Shoreston early in the year, in a mild and unrecognisable form. William Wilson, aged 10 years,

took it on August 17th, in a distinct form. Disinfectants and isolation with all care were used, and this was the end of the series of cases in sequence. It was mild. The water supply here goes dry in summer at the well, and needs serious attention. There is a prospect of a supply being brought in iron pipes

Erysipelas. Four cases were notified, all in adults. Two were in the Rothbury district, one in Longframlington, and one in Alwinton. Ten were reported last year. It occurred during the months of January, March, September, and November, there being one in each. They were all mild, and occurred : two on the face, and one each on the leg and foot.

Scarlet Fever. Three mild cases were reported, without any deaths, all being between 5 and 15 years of age. The first occurred at the DANCING HALL, on February 16th, in a girl, aged 6 years. The disease occurred here the year before last, but hawkers had lately been in the house, and, I fear, carried it. Unsanitary conditions were pointed out, and the drain taken up and relaid at a better level. The usual precautions were adopted. It seems probable that others in the family took it very mildly and were not notified. It then ceased. It broke out at BURRADON, in a boy, aged 13 years, on April 13th, in the family of a relation of the above, hence, I cannot help the suspicion that there might have been some communication between the houses or families. Another boy, aged 9 years, living at the same place, was near this boy on the 13th, and took it on the 14th. The usual precautions were given and used, and after this it did not spread. Unsanitary conditions were pointed out, the ash midden emptied, and privy roof drained out of same. Your Inspector attended to the disinfecting of these houses afterwards, and disinfectants were supplied.

Enteric Fever (Typhoid). Four cases were notified in two families ; all being between 5 and 15 years of age, and recovering. Three being quite mild, the fourth rather severe. The first was at WHITTINGHAM, in a girl, aged 6 years, on May 6th, and her brother took it on the 8th. A drain pipe passed under the house for slop water, being, probably, only a field pipe, it was clear however, but this was quite cut off afterwards, and a proper sanitary drain laid round the west end of the house. Isolation, disinfection, and usual precautions taken, and no more cases occurred. The other was at LONG-FRAMLINGTON, where two children took ill on August 17th and 25th. On inspection, a foul duck pond, &c., had been caused by leakage from a broken water pipe into the field beside the house, collecting there. The pipe was mended, and pond ceased. The usual precautions were adopted, and no more took it, the house being by itself and thus isolated. More drainage is needed.

Diarrhoea was a little prevalent during the year, and caused the death of an infant, aged five months, at Longframlington, on October 3rd, it being teething at the time.

Influenza was decidedly more prevalent than last year ; at times, threatening to become epidemic. It caused two deaths.

Measles were imported into Netherton district by a visitor's family from Newcastle, on January 18th. It caused the death of a young man at Coatwalls on August 5th, from the *Pneumonia* associated with it. An unsanitary condition was removed. An infant died of it at Great Ryle, on July 16th. It was imported from Glanton to the Master's house at the Lee Schools, on July 1st, causing their closure. To Whitton, it was conveyed on July 8th, from Gateshead. To the Waterworks, on August 17th, and to the Blueburn, on November 14th, from Morpeth. All these other outbreaks were mild, and did not spread at all around.

Anthrax was notified in a heifer that died suddenly in Lorbottle Park ; the blood being tested. This was on May 16th. The carcase was buried in quick lime, and the place railed off.

The following sanitary improvements have been made during the year :—An excellent and extensive water supply has been laid down on a part of the Cragside Estate. It is brought down, by gravitation, from the Chapel Well (Blue Mill), in a 3-inch iron pipe, with a storage of 10,000 gallons. It is distributed to SNITTER, WINDYSIDE, SILVERSIDE, HIGH TREWHITT farm and cottages, TREWHITT STEADS, and HALL. Some of these places, in the late dry summer, were in a terrible plight for want of water, this is now removed. The supply to CARTINGTON and SANDILANDS is pumped up, and has a storage of 2,000 gallons. Water supply has also been provided at NETHERTON (South Side farm and cottages attached). The same at ALWINTON Vicarage, having been much needed. Also at the EAST NOOK ; and an extensive, valuable, and much needed one to the ROUGHLEES, and farm and cottages at RITTON WHITE HOUSE. This latter has removed a long continued source of distress. At CARTERSIDE, it has been laid into the cottage. At LONGFRAMLINGTON, extended to the colliery. At WOLVERSHIELDS, it is being taken in hand to fetch it off the Ravensheugh. At HARBOTTLE, the water supply to the village again ran out. Your Board held an enquiry, but decided that as the supply is a private one, not to interfere at this stage, leaving it to the inhabitants and Mr. Fenwicke-Clennell.

New *Sewerage* and *Drainage* have been provided at ELSDON, a large and complete system has been laid down, beginning at the schools, and draining the west side of the village. All the connections are now completed, being under the supervision of your Inspector. This is a

very great boon, and has removed a long standing want. New drainage has been provided at the DUNS farm house and new cottage ; also WHISKERFIELD. At ALWINTON Vicarage an entire new system has been laid down. At NETHERTON, all the houses within reach of it, have now been properly connected to your sewer laid down some time ago. At NETHERTON BURN FOOT, the drainage has been reconstructed and laid in sanitary pipes to the cottages, cow byre, and calf house. The old one was worse than useless. Proper sinks and gullies being also provided. At HIGH TREWHITT, a good system has been laid down for the workmen's cottages, old smithy, farm house, and also at the hinds' cottages, with trapped sinks. At SNITTER, Mr. Hall's and Mr. Charlton's have both been provided with new drains, trapped, ventilated, and inspection chambers, with trapped sinks and gullies. The outbuildings being also spouted. The farm house at WARTON has been furnished in the same manner. The CHIRNELLS has been drained properly. At THROPTON, the MAINS has been laid with new sanitary drains, with proper trapped sinks, and all outbuildings spouted. COQUET HOUSE has had new sanitary sink and drain. At WOODHOUSES, Mr. Ritch has laid down a new sanitary drain, trapped sinks and gullies, and all into septic tank before entering the river. At BLAGDON BURN, new drainage and trapped sinks and gullies. At FOREST BURN GATE, the same. Better drainage at PAUPERHAUGH farm. DANCING HALL, the blocked drain with bad level, taken up and relaid with proper fall. This was long needed. Trapped gullies were provided, but more are needed. At ROTHLEY SHIELD SCHOOLS, the blocked drain was removed. At the GLEBE FARM, sanitary drains and trapped sinks and gullies have been provided. Also at BRINKBURN HIGH HOUSE.

Ash Middens and Privies, covered in, etc., have been provided at the following places : Plainfield, High Trewhitt cottage, Silverside cottages, Low Trewhitt cottage ; while they were covered in at Hipple West Hall, Rothley Middle Shield, and Rothley Shield Schools.

New houses have been built, with all sanitary requirements, at : the Duns (Elsdon) ; Longframlington (Mr. Robinson's) ; Low Trewhitt ; and, practically, at Brinkburn Gate, this being so well enlarged and renovated ; also at High Trewhitt and Low Trewhitt ; with extensive additions at Woodhouses and Pauperhaugh.

The following still require further attention : A proper water supply at WHITTINGHAM LANE ; improvement at WINGATES ; the PEELS, the same ; HARBOTTLE also. The PEELS also needs properly constructed ash middens, two more privies, and blocked drain opened out ; a pigstye, if removed from beside the road, might allow of the spring there being utilised, if it were properly protected. LITTLE TOSSON sadly needs sanitary improvements, drainage and spouting,

etc. Drainage to the LEE cottages and farm, LITTLE MILL, and WAG TAIL ; also very much so at PLAINFIELD ; at HIGH FARNHAM, the same. with other sanitary improvements ; see also later at LONGFRAMLINGTON.

Your Inspector (Mr. Clarkson) has given attention to all the above and accompanied me upon the following special inspections, viz.: the Font Reservoir Works, Elsdon, and Longframlington.

At the WATERWORKS, very great improvements have been made. Roads have been made, repaired, lighted, cleaned, and drained. The ends of the cottages brick built in case of fire, and all ceiled. They have been cleaned out and painted. All the wood bunks, for beds, have been removed, and, in nearly all cases, only single iron bedsteads provided ; in three cases only, do double iron bedsteads remain, they are of a private nature and for only a few lodgers. All overcrowding has now ceased. Fifteen more houses have been built, eight being upon the south side of the river, they are provided with all sanitary needs, water supply, sanitary drain, which goes into a septic tank, and its outflow over coke breeze, to further purify it. Further laudable attempts are being made to purify that of the north side also. More washhouses have been provided, also urinals and privies, and others repaired. A doss house has been provided, so that new comers may be kept under observation for three weeks before being distributed in the houses. There were a few cases of Measles, but no Small Pox this year. From 250 to 280 men were employed in the summer. A good new iron school on brick foundation has been provided by the Duke of Northumberland together with outoffices and sanitary arrangements. It is not yet opened, there being over 70 children.

At ELSDON, the need of drainage was shown, and your Board laid down a good six inch drain, as mentioned above. Two covered-in privies and ash middens provided, with sink and drain, at H. Storey's, since my last visit. And since this one, Mr. Charlton has provided two new sinks and drains. Also at Mr. Riddle's, new trapped sink and drain, with attention to piggeries and earth closet. Excellent, much and long needed improvements have been made at the schools, viz., large addition to the building, ventilation, and outoffices provided with good drainage. This removed a long standing complaint. Sanitary improvements were also effected at the Inn. Four privies were emptied after notice

At LONGFRAMLINGTON, the sewers have received careful attention and improvements made. The water supply keeps good and has been extended to the colliery. The washers of four broken taps have been repaired. One new house has been built, with sanitary requirements. Spouting has been renewed at A. Turnbull's, Mrs. Young's, and G. Chrisp's. Hislop turned privy roofwater out of open ash

midden. Faulty ash middens and privy rectified at G. Ross's and G. Evie's. The ONSTEAD still needs all sanitary improvements. JAMES ANDERSON'S requires a good deal, as does also MR. JAMES RICE'S, who has none. Spouting and sinks are defective at Mrs. Young's, Mrs. Baring's, Rand's, etc. MRS. WALBY needs properly constructed ash midden and a better sanitary sink at back door. A manure heap was complained of and was carted away. Proper sanitary sinks are needed at H. Wardle's, James Gladstone's, James Wood's, and J. Rice's. Five privies and ash middens were emptied after notice.

There were no proceedings before the magistrates.

Under the Workshops Act, I inspected the premises of two dressmakers at Longframlington, finding both satisfactory ; the same of a tailor's and a farrier's at Snitter.

The *Small Pox Hospital* was used as mentioned above.

I am again indebted to Mr. Bertram, of *Cragside*, for the following Table of Rainfall for the year.

JANUARY	.	.	.	2.07	inches.
FEBRUARY	.	.	.	3.11	„
MARCH	.	.	.	2.29	„
APRIL	.	.	.	1.73	„
MAY	.	.	.	2.81	„
JUNE	.	.	.	1.80	„
JULY	.	.	.	1.30	„
AUGUST	.	.	.	2.52	„
SEPTEMBER	.	.	.	1.32	„
OCTOBER46	„
NOVEMBER	.	.	.	3.34	„
DECEMBER	.	.	.	2.50	„

TOTAL	25.25
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Thus there were only 25.25 inches, as against 40.49 the year before, and the average of 35.0 There were only 155 wet days, as against 204 of year before ; and the hours of sunshine were 1,430.

Your obedient servant,

F. BARROW,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS

In the Rothbury (Rural) District.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths One Year of age.		Deaths at all ages. Total.		Deaths of Non-Residents registered in District.	Deaths at all ages. Nett.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*		Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1891	4891									
1894	4850									
1895	4830			Separated in 1896.						
1896	4790	131	27·29	10	76·33	81	16·85		79	16·45
1897	4770	112	23 0	14	125·0	56	11·69		53	9·0
1898	4750	115	24·2	11	95·65	88	18·41		87	18·20
1899	4730	114	23·5	10	88·0	60	12·26		59	12·06
1900	4710	115	24·4	16	139·1	95	19·8		89	18·54
1901	4690	96	20·47	11	114·6	67	14·30		64	13·66
1902	4770	99	20·9	10	101·0	64	13·40	1	59	12·36
1903	4780	133	27·82	12	90·22	69	14·44		65	13·60
Averages for years 1894-1903.	4800	114	23·7	12	105·3	72	15·0	1	69	14·3
1904	4820	111	23·10	10	90·9	60	12·5	..	56	11·66

*Rates in Columns 4, 6, 8, and 11 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)...	166,959
Total Population at all ages...	4,689
Number of inhabited houses	1,041
Average persons per house	4·5

TABLE OF CAUSES OF, AND AGES, AT DEATH, during Year 1904, in Rothbury (Rural) District.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.						Deaths in Localities (at all ages).							
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Rothbury Parish (Rural).	Whittingham.	Long Framlington.	Alwinton.	Alnham and Brinkburn.	Cambo and Elsdon.	Long Horsley and Netherwhitton.
Measles ...	2		1				1	1	1		1		1	
Epidemic influenza...	2				1									
Diarrhoea ...	1	1						1		1				
Other tubercular diseases	1	1							1					
Cancer, malignant disease	3					2	1					1		1
Bronchitis...	3	1				1	1	1						
Pneumonia	1							1						
Premature birth	2	2				5	7	2	1	3	1			2
Heart diseases	12			1				5	1	1				
Accidents ...	1					2		1	1					
Suicides ...	2					1		1	1	1				
Apoplexy ...	3		1				2	2	1	1			1	
Debility from birth	3	2					9	1	1					
Senile decay	9						2	3	2				1	
All other causes	11	3			3	3	2	2	2	3	2		2	
All causes	56	10	2	1	5	14	24	19	10	9	8	2	5	3

TABLE OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1904 in the Rothbury (Rural) District.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.					Total Cases notified in each Locality.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.				Rothbury (Rural part of Parish).	Whittingham.	Longframlington.	Alwinton.	Alnham and Brinkburn.	Cambo and Elsdon.	Long Horsley and Netherwitton.
		1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65							
Diphtheria ...	4		3		1	1						2
Erysipelas ...	4				4			1	1			
Scarlet Fever ...	3		3			1			2			
Enteric Fever ...	4		4			2		2				
Totals ...	15	10		5		3	4	3	3			2

ISOLATION HOSPITAL near Whittington, in the Rural part of Rothbury Parish.

